Daily Report
Latin America

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Cuba

Shevardnadze To Visit Cuba in October

FL241331 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Politburo and USSR foreign minister, will pay an official visit to our country in the first half of October. Shevardnadze was invited by the leadership of the Cuban Government and the PCC.

Castro Inaugurates Obrerito Child Care Center

FL240345 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] During the ceremony inaugurating the Obrerito Child Care Center located in Havana, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said that this is the second of 50 centers to be constructed by the minibrigade system,and has been made possible thanks to the resurgence of the minibrigades which devote themselves to the construction of social projects.

In the capital, he said, there is a certain deficit in the construction work force and it is supplemented by the minibrigade movement which consists of workers from several sectors. Fidel pointed out that because many centers have extra workers because of organizational deficiencies that promote excess personnel and because the specialized positions [cargos de perfil estrecho] were eliminated by the multi-assignment, workers now do not have enough to do in an 8-hour day.

During the inauguration of the Obrerito child care center, Fidel gave a detailed explanation on the brigades' construction projects to the Ecuadoran delegation presided over by Mrs Eugenia Cordoves de Febres Cordero. Besides the child care centers, Fidel explained, the minibrigades will construct other types of projects, such as polyclinics and special schools. He said that the minibrigade construction program in Havana is extensive and will gradually spread to the interior of the country.

Returning to the topic of the child care centers, our commander in chief said that the capacity of those installations will increase by 60 percent and they will be adequate installations, not houses that have been adapted.

Next year, said the commander in chief, construction will begin on primary schools. These will not be additional institutions, he said. Instead, Fidel said, they will replace existing ones.

Later in his speech, Fidel said that a study should be done to see how many schools need to be constructed and to determine their capabilities for half room and board [semi-internados]. He described the organizations that will guarantee the work conditions and supply food for the minibrigades.

He stressed how the workers have dedicated themselves to constructing family doctor homes-offices and homes for nurses. Later, the first secretary of the PCC said that we now have (?a capacity for) 45,000 special schools and we should finish 80,000, which the minibrigades will also do.

In describing the role of the minibrigades, Fidel said they are comprised of workers from different sectors. He referred to the projects they will construct in Centro Habana, which includes a pool complex. In this municipality, as is the case in Old Havana, Cerro, 10 October, and other municipalities, they will have to work hard with the architects to make decisions.

Fidel also discussed other construction projects, such as the construction of Road 100 that extends to the national highway. The development of our society must be organized, he said. We think that the unhealthy neighborhoods will be eliminated within the next few years, said Fidel.

Before ending his speech, he said that the commitment to complete the day care centers has become a symbol of what the minibrigades can do. hl

R. Castro's Closing Speech at FAR Congress

FL240131 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 87

[Text] A few minutes ago, Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister, closed the fifth congress of the National Far Civilian Workers Union.

[Begin Castro recording] Dear comrades, delegates, and guests. [words indistinct] the work of our trade union. This fifth congress is taking place, fortunately, at a time when we are making an effort to advance on the correct road, eliminating errors and negative tendencies, when new solutions are being formed to solve old problems, and our party strengthens its moral authority and its leadership role for the vanguard people. [end recording]

A few moments prior to the closing speech, the 250 delegates were attentively listening to the results of the electoral commission, which reported on the newly elected national secretariat.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] For his merits and work, the national committee has approved comrade Jose Antonio Roque Arias as secretary general. [applause] The national committee has elected Bernardo Llanes Leon to the position of second secretary. [applause] We congratulate you and are confident that you will fight and triumph, faithful to the spirit of struggle and victory, which is conveyed to us daily by our beloved [word indistinct], invincible, and beloved FAR. Thank you very much. [end recording]

The congress has also been the appropriate incentive for the people who, over these many years, have worked hard in the defense area.

A group of comrades received the Combative Fraternity Medal while others, whose merits were also recognized, received the Distinguished Service award. FAR chiefs

and officials who have contributed to the effectiveness of the trade union received the (Emilio Arcenas) award. Another moving moment was when Army General Raul Castro signed the fifth congress banner that was passed throughout the country during the days prior to the congress.

In assessing the commitments fulfilled for the fifth congress, the most outstanding sector, province, and command were presented with the special emulation banner.

During his closing speech, Army General Raul Castro referred to the new expertise that is currently being applied at the (Julias Husi) military-industrial enterprise.

[Begin Castro recording] What we have achieved at the (Julias Husi), other FAR enterprises, and in the services may be a modest contribution but it is substantial in transforming our economy and fulfilling the responsibilities that we all have in the task of improvement.

In regard to this process, I briefly would like to make further remarks, above all, on the authority of the enterprise director.

Our idea of this is foreign, in principle, to any notion of personal omnipotence. This is an authority that we feel needs to be strengthened with the irreplaceable collective force of the leadership council that knows how to fulfill its responsibility. In its role as adviser and consultant, where every member is the heart of the PCC, the UJC [Union of Young Communists], the trade union, and other leaders, it should fulfill its corresponding role. They do not at all contradict the personal responsibility of the enterprise director, who is not able to delegate his responsibility for the decisions made.

It is also necessary to clarify that there is a right and a real possibility to differ with the decisions of the committee of experts that affect the labor statutes of workers. There are established procedures for demands of this type based on the current law in force.

Nevertheless, we cannot forget that this committee of experts, as you have seen, is comprised of administration, PCC, UJC, and trade union members who are elected democratically by the workers themselves. The committee's members live with the masses. They know about each comrade, how he fulfills his responsibilities, his advances, the discipline he follows, and his limitations. As a result, we think that their decisions are much more likely to be truthful and fair than any other type of appeal. Nevertheless, the fundamental goal of this is to convince each person, a task in which the trade union plays a decisive role.

You know how the system is applied in the (Julias Husik) enterprise. Out of 1,900 workers, only four complaints were made, two of which were immediately resolved. There were two women, comrades, who were not doing their jobs effectively, but, as I recall, they were transferred to other positions. When I passed through, they were not still not convinced about the action taken. Even the secretary of the trade union's bureau told us about the last time that he and his wife, who is also a worker, went to speak to the comrades. They went to their houses to continue discussing the justice in the measure taken. This is a magnificent political effort and in conjunction with the work carried out by the trade union, the UJC, and the PCC, it is perfect political assurance that is indispensable before carrying out an experiment of this type in any of our work centers. [end recording]

The remarks made by Army General Raul Castro are without a doubt the guide for our work of the next 5 years.

[Begin Raul Castro recording] Along with our generals, officials, combatants, and future commanding cadres, we ask you to fulfill our tasks with revolutionary passion, to unceasingly make things better every day, based on one commitment: to confront and overcome the difficulties discussed during these days of analysis. These 2 days of enlightening and stimulating analysis should be the combat banner for each FAR civilian worker and his trade union. Long live our working class! [Audience shouts: "Viva!"] Long live the fifth congress of the National Far Civilian Workers Union! [Audience shouts: "Viva!"] Long live our party! [Audience shouts: "Viva!"] Long live our commander in chief! [Audience shouts: "Viva!"] Fatherland or death! [Audience responds: "We will win!"][applause] [end recording]

El Salvador

FMLN-FDR Communique on Dialogue

PA250049 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Communique issued by the Executive Committee of the FDR and the General Command of the FMLN on 24 September; place not given]

[Text] In view of the announcement by Duarte regarding his willingness to talk with our fronts on 4 October, we hereby issue the following statement:

1. We find the government's acceptance of a dialogue without previous conditions as positive. This is a proposal that a large number of the country's political and social forces have been supporting. We acknowledge the important contribution made in this regard by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and by Panama's Eric Arturo Delvalle.

2. We will meet at the apostolic nuncio's office, a site that we had proposed earlier in order to renew the dialogue process and secure a firm and lasting peace with justice and independence. We reiterate our proposal that highest level delegations should represent both sides.

3. To help facilitate the 4 October dialogue, our fronts—the FDR-FMLN—reiterate their proposal agreeing to a cease-fire during the meeting as well as for 2 days before and after the meeting.

4. For the dialogue to lead to a real political solution to our conflict, it must continue. Therefore, to limit or prevent that continuity would be a new disappointment to the Salvadoran people and would show that the dialgoue was being used only to secure better military positions.

5. We hope that the necessary operational and security agreements are resolved so that the meeting may take place on the appointed date. In order to ensure this, we will be meeting soon with the mediator, Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas.

6. We have reiterated that it is necessary to have a national agreement to resolve the conflict. This position has also been adopted by the country's opposition parties and other sectors. Our fronts state our willingness to continue to try to start the national dialogue because it is necessary that the country's various sectors state their opinions and interests.

24 September 1987

[Signed] Executive Committee of the FDR

General Command of the FMLN

Zamora on Dialogue, Return to Country

PA241823 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Telephone interview with FDR leader Ruben Zamora from Managua by unidentified reporter—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] You have said you accept the Esquipulas II Agreements with some variations. Do these variations include a unilateral or bilateral cease-fire, and will you join the democratic process? You have said you plan to return to the country [words indistinct] with your own party. Is this the beginning of a broad political opening leading to a total cease-fire?

[Zamora] First of all, regarding the cease-fire, we have already replied to Napoleon Duarte when he proposed a dialogue for 15 September, and we accepted that date. We clearly told him the FDR and the FMLN are willing to discuss and agree on a suspension of hostilities or a cease-fire in El Salvador as part of a process for a political solution. Therefore, we have proposed that the cease-fire be included in the dialogue agenda. Second, our position regarding the democratization process is the following: We believe democracy is necessary in El Salvador. We favor a pluralistic democracy, with the participation of the various ideological currents. However, we believe democracy must be built by all Salvadorans and must be built in El Salvador. We are willing to participate in building that democracy. Therefore, we (?believe that) some measures must be adopted in that regard and that dialogue and negotiation can contribute to the development of democracy in El Salvador, because we should all take part in the process. It is also within that context that my party has decided I will return to the country to work in developing a democracy that includes all the (?national sectors.) [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What do you think about the U.S. position? The United States does not seem to be very happy about these meetings.

[Zamora] [Words indistinct] Central American presidents in Guatemala City. The proposal signed by the presidents in Guatemala differs from the policy the Reagan administration wants to impose in Central America. The Reagan administration favors a military policy. It seeks military solutions for the Central American conflicts, while the Esquipulas agreements favor political solutions in the area. This explains why the U.S. Government [words indistinct] a great confusion regarding the Esquipulas agreements. By reading the statements made by Defense Secretary Weinberger or by Shultz, and then those made by President Reagan, one can see none of them is saying the same thing. Furthermore, we Salvadorans must prepare ourselves and conduct our own struggle to make peace a reality in El Salvador, based on the current conditions in the country. We must make the U.S. Government realize that what we want is peace and not more military aid; that what we want is economic cooperation on an equal basis and not more military advisers or more helicopters. I believe this is a task Salvadorans must undertake through [words indistinct] and political proposals. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] One last question: Are both the rebels and the Salvadoran Government optimistic about the 4 October meeting?

[Zamora] Look, I can only speak for our side. I would say the FDR will participate in the 4 October meeting with optimism, but above all we are determined to contribute step by step with [words indistinct]. Honestly speaking, we do not believe the entire problem can be resolved in one meeting. However, we are firmly convinced that, starting with the first meeting to resume the dialogue, we can take concrete steps. On the one hand, those steps can open the path to continuing the dialogue and negotiations and thus advancing toward peace, and on the other hand they will bring new hope to the Salvadoran people that peace is possible in our country with justice and dignity for all Salvadorans.

Guatemala

Cerezo Endorses Talks With Rebels

PA250005 Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Sep (AFP)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo has announced that he is prepared to begin talks with all political groups, including the armed rebels, in order to comply with the Central American peace accord.

"Although in Guatemala we are not experiencing the same situation as in Nicaragua and El Salvador, we are prepared to hold talks with guerrilla groups and others that want to join the political process," Cerezo said upon returning to the country last night from the United States.

The president, who took office in January 1986, explained that contacts with the guerrillas could be conducted through the National Reconciliation Commission, which will be sworn in in a few days.

"In a few weeks Guatemala will have very interesting news as to how the commission can establish the ground rules" for the guerrillas to abandon violence and "find the path for dialogue and reconciliation," the president said.

He added: "We are prepared to hold talks with the guerrillas and other groups that are abroad—for example—and which must be incorporated into the country's political life. This can happen in a few days," the president stressed.

The guerrillas, grouped in the URNG, publicly expressed that they are prepared to hold talks with the Christian Democratic government but without laying down their weapons.

The URNG is made up of the pro-Soviet Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT), the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), and the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), which have been operating in the jungles of Guatemala for nearly 30 years.

Cerezo noted that his government is complying with the peace plan signed in Guatemala on 7 August. He said that the National Reconciliation Commission will be responsible for establishing the conditions so that the agreements can be implemented.

The commission is made up of Vice President Roberto Carpio; church delegate Msgr Roberto Quesado Toruno, Zacapa's bishop; and former presidential candidate Jorge Serrano, who belongs to the ultrarightist Solidarity Action Movement.

President Cerezo labeled his meeting on Monday with his counterpart Ronald Reagan as very positive. However, he acknowledged that the two disagree on the means to achieve peace.

When asked about aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, Cerezo said that "we have firmly refused to favor or oppose military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. However, we have stated that we adhere to the framework of the agreement signed by the [Central American] presidents that insists upon and stresses a peaceful resolution of the region's problems."

Nicaragua

Rules for Peace Commissions Issued

PA241404 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1207 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Communique issued by the Presidential Information and Press Directorate in Managua on 23 September]

[Text] The Presidential Information and Press Directorate states that:

In complying with the decision made by President and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra to implement point two of the Esquipulas II Agreements in order to make possible an effective cease-fire within the constitutional framework and within the amnesty law promulgated on 10 January 1985, the Nicaraguan Government announces the following regulations that were issued after receiving recommendations from the National Reconciliation Commission, headed by His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo:

1. The National Reconciliation Commission will head the efforts that, as part of the peace process promoted through the Esquipulas II agreements, are carried out within the national territory through the regional and departmental commissions and the peace commissions in the territories affected by the war.

2. The creation of the regional or departmental reconciliation commissions is authorized. These commissions will be subordinated to the National Reconciliation Commission, to which they will directly report their activities. It is recommended that these commissions be headed by the bishop of the respective diocese and that the other members be the minister delegate of the Presidency, a representative or delegate of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, representatives from political parties or other civic organizations, and prominent personalities of the relevant region or department, including representatives from Protestant churches.

3. Peace commissions will function wherever they are necessary within the territory of those regional or departmental commissions. The number of commissions in each territory will be determined fairly by the regional commissions.

4. Within this framework, the peace commissions' efforts will have the following objectives:

A. To promote and support the cease-fire process in accordance with the decisions to be made by the government to implement that cease-fire in the territories affected by the war.

B. To ensure the effective implementation of the amnesty law for the Nicaraguan rebels who accept it by facilitating and supporting their contacts with the authorities and by helping to ensure their peaceful return to their homes with all legal guarantees.

C. To help, in the same manner, Nicaraguan prisoners who are covered by amnesty laws or pardons return to their homes with full guarantees.

D. To help the National Reconciliation Commission verify all the measures taken by the government in relation to the cease-fire and amnesty within the framework of the Esquipulas agreements.

Managua, 23 September 1987

No one surrenders here!

[Signed] Presidential Information and Press Directorate

D. Ortega: Contras Reagan's 'Puppets'

PA242028 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] Workers and top officials of the cement factory in San Rafael del Sur have held a meeting with President Daniel Ortega.

Following a tour of the cement processing plants and a dialogue with the plants' operators, Ortega received a report on the work plans from Engineering Director Juan Francisco Roman. Roman said that the factory's processing capacity is 1,000 tons but that there is a delay in the work due to a lack of packing bags.

Leonel Espinoza, in charge of production and a member of the union that includes the 504 workers of that factory, told Ortega they have not had medical examinations in almost 2 years. They need to determine their health conditions, particularly because of their work with the machinery, which operates at high temperatures.

Recognizing the workers' just demand from the administration, Ortega said the examinations should not be delayed.

The cement factory was founded 45 years ago, in 1946 [as heard]; some workers have been at the factory that long. One of these workers is Production Director Antonio Aleman Cruz.

Ortega addressed several hundred workers and people of San Rafael del Sur, where he held a "Face the People" program. He stressed to them that there will be no dialogue with the counterrevolutionary leaders, saying it is a matter of principle.

Ortega answered questions concerning the water and energy supply, transportation, and road repairs.

Addressing the people, he said it is a matter of principle not to talk with the counterrevolutionary leaders but with their leader: the U.S. Government.

[Begin Ortega recording] We said we are not willing to talk with what they refer to as the leadership of the counterrevolution, which is not truly the leadership of the counterrevolution. They want us to talk with the puppets President Reagan manipulates. The puppets come alive, move, and talk because there is a hand moving them and a person talking behind them. You have watched puppets on television when they are presented to children. The contras are puppets controlled by the U.S. Administration. They are moved by President Reagan; they are moved by his hands. In other words, they have no life. A puppet will not talk or move by itself. However, if a hand moves it, it comes alive. What then do we gain from talking with the puppets if they have no real life? We must talk with whomever moves the puppets: The U.S. Government and the U.S. President.

Therefore, I told them [not further identified] we understand their concern and view, but Nicaragua gains nothing by talking with these people. We are not intransigent because we are irresponsible; we have a responsibility to ourselves and to the Nicaraguan people.

We want this war to end. We do not want more Nicaraguans to die. We do not want those who are defending the revolution or those who are attacking it to die. They are all Nicaraguans. We do not want them to die. We do not want the contras to die because, after all, they are Nicaraguans. We do not want the Nicaraguan brothers who are attacked by those other Nicaraguans [words indistinct] at a cooperative to die. We do not want that.

When we talk about taking an intransigent stand regarding not talking with the puppets it is because we are convinced the problem cannot be resolved by talking with the puppets. If we were convinced the problems could be resolved by talking with the puppets, we would talk with the puppets, because we want peace.

It is not that we have assumed a stupid, stubborn, or fanatical attitude. We are not saying we do not want to talk with those people simply because we do not want to talk with them. We do not want to talk with them because it makes no sense. They are like a lifeless puppet. The one who brings a puppet to life is he who gives it money and weapons. Therefore, we must talk with he who gives them money and weapons: the U.S. Government.

This is the reason for our intransigent position. We have not talked and will not talk with these people. We are willing to talk just like we talked before—we held nine

meetings in Mexico—with U.S. Government representatives. We talked at the place known as Manzanillo. Nine meetings were held there.

So, there is the precedent—we have already talked with the U.S. Government. So, why can't we talk with it again? We are willing to do that, and we told the senators that.

We also explained to them that the Guatemala agreements do not say we must talk with the contras. No paragraph of the Guatemala agreements says we must talk with the contras. It does say that a national dialogue must be promoted. We already explained that, on 5 October, we will begin a national dialogue with all the parties that want to participate in it.

Those who are involved in armed counterrevolutionary activities and who want to participate in the dialogue would first have to seek the protection of the amnesty law and turn in their weapons. This is why we have the peace commissions. The peace commissions were created to stop the bloodshed in Nicaragua. [end recording]

Panama

Protest to U.S. on Troop Movement

Abadia Comments

PA242316 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2112 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (EFE)—Panama will protest to the United States for the "violation" of its borders by U.S. military troops stationed in the Canal Zone, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia announced today.

"Two U.S. military buses that were transporting troops stationed in the canal zone violated our border on Wednesday by taking 120 troops in combat gear to guard the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. ambassador's residence in Panama," Abadia explained.

The U.S. troops are inside diplomatic premises that are considered U.S. territory, the foreign minister added.

"In that respect there is no violation. However, the strengthening of troops and their crossing through our territory was conducted without our prior authorization or in accordance with the provisions of the Panama Canal Treaties," signed with the United States in 1977, he added.

The Panamanian authorities are ready to take "any type of action" if that situation recurs, the Panamanian foreign minister added.

"It is an uncivilized act (...) whose nefarious purpose is to prepare in a rash and bold manner conditions for new military actions" by the United States, he remarked.

Panamanians, the diplomat added, "have for many years been subject to the presence of U.S. uniforms in our territory and believed that that era had ended with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties of 1977," he noted.

In the opinion of the Panamanian authorities, the strengthening of troops at the U.S. Embassy "paints a somber picture of direct U.S. intervention in our domestic affairs (...) and implies the laying of the groundwork for more aggressive military actions against our people," Abadia stated.

Relations between the United States and Panama have turned sour in the wake of U.S. demands that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commander in chief, permit the country's democratization.

Noriega, Panama's "strongman," has denied charges by U.S. congressmen linking him with drug-trafficking.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry asked the FDP to investigate the incident and at the same time presented a preliminary protest to U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis, Abadia noted.

"We will submit a formal protest when we receive the results of the investigation," he concluded.

Cabinet Council Orders Protest

PA250010 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] The cabinet council headed by President Eric Arturo Delvalle has instructed the Panamanian Foreign Ministry to forcefully protest a series of violations committed by the U.S. Government in matters involving the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and because U.S. officials have intervened in the country's internal affairs.

It was reported that in the next few hours the Foreign Ministry will present a formal protest to the U.S. Government because of the movement of U.S. troops in Panamanian territory, which violates the Panama Canal Treaties and national sovereignty.

Argentina

Further on Renewed Falklands Negotiations

Caputo Denies Direct Talks

PY241911 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1850 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] New York, 24 Sep (AFP)—Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today formally denied the report about an eventual meeting between Argentine and British diplomats to discuss the Malvinas as was indicated in Buenos Aires.

I clearly deny it, because it is simply just not so. Caputo told AFP at the end of his meeting with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias within the framework of the UN's Latin American and Caribbean Group.

The foreign minister stated that he had never admitted the possibility of a resumption of negotiations between his country and the United Kingdom, whose relations were broken in 1982 over the Malvinas war.

Instead, he acknowledged that he had indicated that there had been informal communication through a third country that worked as a post office (presumably the United States), but he maintained that there is nothing that can point to imminent formal contact between the two countries.

Caputo will address the UNGA on 25 September.

Foreign Ministry Comments

PY241744 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Interview with Foreign Ministry official Guillermo Magot by unidentified announcer on meeting reported to be held between Argentina and the United Kingdom—place not given]

[Excerpt] New York is currently where the news is. Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and our country's Foreign Ministry delegation are there.

We are in contact there with Foreign Ministry official Guillermo Magot, who could be called the righ-thand man of Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and who is carrying out various tasks related to UNGA.

Well, Mr Magot, we were just discussing this possible meeting to be held at the end of October between Argentine and British diplomats, a report that was transmitted this morning by some news agencies. The report also indicates that there will be another meeting about mid-November in Paris and if an agreement is reached to undertake bilateral negotiations there will be a first meeting before the end of the year between the deputy foreign ministers of Argentina and Great Britain.

The possibility that negotiations would be resumed was publicly admitted yesterday by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. Therefore, Mr Magot, we say good afternoon. What news do you have on this topic in New York?

[Magot] Good afternoon. Specifically answering your question regarding this schedule, which some press agencies have released in the country, I would say we have no knowledge of it within the Foreign Ministry. I believe this answers your question.

[Announcer] Very well. Mr Magot is it true that some type of contact exists through a third country?

[Magot] Exactly. At this time there are some indirect contacts through a third country. I would say it has acted as communicator, not as mediator. This must be particularly emphasized. It is not a mediator, but a kind of post office acting between two parties.

If there is progress, we believe that it could produce positive results which will not harm the position that has always been adopted by the Foreign Ministry, and especially by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo that could generate future steps which could be taken according to events.

[Announcer] What topics are being discussed? Are they related to preventing armed confrontations in the Atlantic? What was included in these first contacts?

[Magot] Exactly. You have said it. To try and prevent any type of incident that could take place in an area which, as you know, is clearly defined. [passage omitted]

Sourrouille Travels to U.S. To Renegotiate Debt

PY241533 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1138 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Sep (DYN)—Today Argentine economic authorities will begin a crucial mission to the United States to meet with international financial agencies in search of an agreement on new terms to repay Argentina's huge foreign debt. This is a diplomatic offensive supported by the Foreign Ministry and officially announced by President Raul Alfonsin 1 week ago.

Negotiations began after the Central Bank announced here yesterday that it has authorized public and private sector debtors, which are guaranteed by the Finance Secretariat, to make unauthorized payments abroad of up to $1 million.

Foreign Minister Dante Caputo is already in New York, where he will address the issue from a political viewpoint. Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea, who will deal with the technical and financial sides of the negotiations, left last night for that city. [passage omitted]

Alfonsin, Military High Command Discuss Budget

PY232028 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1126 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Sep (DYN)—President Raul Alfonsin held a meeting last night with the military high command to discuss the 1988 military budget and an eventual salary increase for military personnel.

The meeting, the third the president has held with military chiefs in less than 15 days, took place during a dinner held at the historic frigate *Presidente Sarmiento.* The frigate is currently used as a museum. Members of the economic team and Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena also attended.

The meeting between the president, the joint staff members, and the staff of the three Armed Forces branches was held after Alfonsin attended Army, and Air Force joint combat exercises in Corrientes Province.

The issues discussed in last night's meeting were disclosed by military sources because no official reports about the meeting were released. Neither the press nor photographers had access to the frigate.

Present at the meeting and the dinner that followed were: General Teodoro Waldner, Armed Forces chief of staff; General Jose Dante Caridi, Army chief of staff; Admiral Ramon Arosa Navy chief of staff; and General Ernesto Crespo, Air Force chief of staff.

Among the civilian and military authorities attending the meeting with Alfonsin were: Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena; Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille; Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe; Defense Production Secretary Jose Maria Llados; and Technical Planning Secretary Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini.

Alfonsin, who arrived at the meeting site at 2100, was welcomed on board by Arosa and Captain Hugo Dietrich, museum director, with the traditional whistle.

He immediately went to the commander's quarters where the other authorties were awaiting him.

This meeting was the continuation of two previous meetings held in the last 15 days at the veterinary unit and the Olivos presidential residence during which officials discussed issues regarding the Armed Forces modernization program.

The press did not have access to last night's dinner, nor was there an official report issued on the topics discussed by the president and the military high command.

However, Defense Minister Jaunarena explained in the afternoon that during the meeting "the extension of the Due Obedience Law will not be discussed."

Jaunarena made this statement upon his arrival at the Buenos Aires Jorge Newberry Airport from Paso de los Libres where he and Alfonsin attended a series of joint military maneuvers.

At that time, Jaunarena said the main issues to be discussed in the meeting would be "the Armed Forces budget and the Armed Forces restructuring plan."

Military sources said that in addition to these subjects, those present at the meeting also discussed issues pertaining to the salary of military personnel, Armed Forces equipment, the situation of military industries, the foreign debt, and the sale of Armed Forces property to finance the modernization program and the purchase of new equipment.

Defense Minister Jaunarena Departs for Spain

PY232204 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2111 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Sep (TELAM)—At 1800 today, Defense Minister Jose Jaunarena left for Spain where he will meet with his Spanish counterpart, Narciso Serra, to discuss subjects of possible agreements during the visit. Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will travel to our country very soon.

Defense Ministry sources today explained why he was taking the trip, stating that the talks will evolve around Argentine-Spanish relations in the defense sector, and that these talks will continue until next weekend.

Jaunarena greeted reporters at Ezeiza International Airport but did not make a statement.

Alfonsin Affected by Slight Stomach Ailment

PY241748 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpt] President Raul Alfonsin has canceled all meetings scheduled for today due to a slight stomach problem. He will remain in the Olivos Presidential Residence today.

[Report from Government House by Reporter Silvina Martinez] President Alfonsin will not come to Government House today because he is affected by a stomach problem. It was reported officially this morning that the president decided to cancel all interviews he was scheduled to hold today and rescheduled them for tomorrow. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Brazil

Education Minister Resigns; More To Resign

PY241641 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese
1609 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Report from Brasilia by Carlos Rodrigues]

[Text] PFL President Marcos Maciel and PFL Honorary President Aureliano Chaves have achieved an agreement at Government House. They have decided that the five PFL members in the Cabinet will tender their resignations and request a (?reassessment) of those political forces that support the government.

PFL Leader Carlos Chiarelli who met today with Senator Marco Maciel said that the PFL has decided that President Sarney needs to make a vast Cabinet reform because the PFL believes there are many PMDB ministers who are not acting in keeping with the President's orders.

Chiarelli added that many PMDB politicians are opposing the Sarney administration within the framework of the Constituent Assembly.

Moreover, Government House Spokesman Frota Netto has just confirmed that Education Minister Jorge Bournhausen, who is a PFL member, has already tendered his resignation to President Sarney. He added that this request will be made official during a meeting that Bournhausen is schedule to hold with the president this afternoon. [words indistinct].

Netto on Dissolution of PFL-PMDB Alliance

PY250329 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Report by Marcia Pompeu from Planalto Palace]

[Excerpt] Education Minister Jorge Bornhausen today tendered his resignation to President Jose Sarney. Planalto Palace spokesman Frota Netto said the president has not accepted Bornhausen' resignation. Bornhausen, however, insisted on resigning and said he will stay in his post only until his replacement is appointed.

Commenting on Borhhausen's resignation, Frota Netto said:

[Begin recording] In a document submitted to President Sarney, Bornhausen reviewed his performance as head of the Education Ministry, and reached a number of conclusions concerning the current relations between the two ruling parties. Thus, Bornhausen decided that he should not remain in his post. [end recording]

Frota Netto added that the dissolution of the Democratic Alliance [AD] announced today to President Sarney by Senator Marco Maciel and Minister Aureliano Chaves does not mean a break with the president, rather a break between the PFL and the PMDB.

Commenting on what President Sarney plans to do now that the AD has been dissolved, Frota Netto said:

[Begin recording] President Sarney is, of course, discharging his duties normally. He will confer with his other AD partner, PMDB President Ulysses Guimaraes. Only after this meeting is held will we have a clear picture of what the break with the AD means for the PMDB. [end recording]

In his resignation letter addressed to President Sarney, Bornhausen stated that he does not accept the type of parliamentary system proposed in the draft constitution presented by Deputy Bernardo Cabral.

Bornhausen said that although he favors the parliamentary system, he thinks a president elected under a presidential system is entitled to finish his term under the same system.

Bornhausen added that he decided to resign after hearing about a PMDB leadership meeting in which Cabral's draft was approved. This draft, which calls for the establishment of a parliamentary system in Brazil beginning in March 1988, is an affront to the government. As a friend of President Sarney, Bornhausen said, he finds it necessary to give the president freedom of action to make changes. [passage omitted]

CNEN Head Rejects Soviet Envoy's Criticism

PY241441 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Sep 87 p A6

[Text] Rex Nazareth Alves, president of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN), yesterday in Vienna questioned Soviet Ambassador to Brazil Viktor Isakov's right to criticize the Brazilian decision to not allow the IAEA to control the Brazilian parallel (or autonomous) nuclear program. "Who has the right to tell this to Brazil? I hope that the Brazilian people react strongly to this," he said. Nazareth is in Vienna participating in the IAEA conference. Ambassador Isakov made his statement in Brasilia yesterday.

Rex Nazareth said he has not felt any negative reaction in Vienna to the Brazilian decision not to permit international inspection of the parallel nuclear program installations which enrich uranium by 1.2 percent.

Chile

Carabineros, Students Clash in Santiago

Student Leader Shot

PY250316 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0038 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Santiago, 24 Sep (AFP)—[Passage omitted] Today during clashes between Carabineros and University students and professors in Santiago, student leader Maria Paz Santibanez, of the University of Chile Art School, was shot in the head by a Carabinero. The Carabinero then shot in the air to disperse the demonstrators who had gathered in front of the Municipal Theatre, a passerby reported.

The girl lost control and started throwing rocks at the Carabinero, who was rescued by two of the theater guards and taken into the theater.

Maria Paz Santibanez, a 19-year-old music student, was hospitalized and is said to be in serious condition in one of Santiago's hospitals.

As a result of the demonstrations, the windows and doors of the Municipal Theater were damaged. Meanwhile, the air in the entire downtown Santiago area became unbreathable due to the tear gas used by police to disperse the demonstrators and a fire barricade erected by the demonstrators. [passage omitted]

Similar riots occurred in Concepcion, 430 km south of Santiago, where a student was beaten by police with bats; and in Antofagasta, 1,080 km north of Santiago, where Carabineros teargassed hundreds of demonstrators.

The riots expanded to other Chilean universities a few hours after the military government announced that the economic rationalization program being adopted at the University of Chile will also be adopted at all other universities.

4 Students Arrested

PY231515 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0018 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Santiago, 22 Sep (AFP)—Four students were arrested today [words indistinct] at the memorial to University of Chile founder Andres Bello, in front of the university central building.

A strong Carabineros contingent was seen dispersing the demonstrators with watercannons and teargas while attacking reporters and photographers with their clubs.

[Words indistinct] has been paralyzed for 1 month, in the worst crisis since the advent of the military regime in September 1973.

Students and teachers are demanding the resignation of government-appointed Rector Jose Luis Federici—who was designated by President Augusto Pinochet—and protesting against the budget restructuring plan.

Group Takes Over Santiago Radio Station

PY241459 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1437 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Santiago, 24 Sep (EFE)—Three armed people today took over a Santiago radio station to try and disseminate an extremist proclamation. However, they did not achieve their objective and limited themselves to painting slogans on the walls. The commando, apparently belonging to the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), entered the premises of Radio Viva early this morning just before the station began its daily transmission. [passage omitted on background material]

Javier Miranda, the owner of the radio station, told EFE that the attackers tied up the night watchman, and when the control technician arrived they tried to transmit the proclamation.

When they did not achieve their purpose, because Radio Viva's sign on is previously recorded, the attackers also tied up the technician, painted the walls with slogans and then fled.

Injunction Filed on 'Analysis' Reporter

PY241511 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Monica Gonzalez, a reporter for the weekly *Analisis*, has reportedly slandered the president of the Republic. The crime has reportedly been committed in an article published in the last issue of the magazine, which is now being circulated.

Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez, who arrived at this conclusion, has filed an injuction against Gonzalez with the Santiago Apellate Court.

The Santiago Appellate Court has appointed Judge Marco Aurelio Perales as prosecutor. Perales is scheduled to summon Monica Gonzalez in the next few days to deliver her first testimony. At that point Perales could even order her preventive arrest.

Gonzalez has been charged with violating Article 6, Clause B, of Law No 12927, concerning state security. It punishes those slandering the head of state in any news media. Monica Gonzalez has reportedly admitted to committing this crime in an interview with Andres Zaldivar Larrain, the first vice president of the Christian Democratic Party.

Paraguay

Further on Leaders Criticism of U.S. Ambassador

Official Views Bilateral Ties

PY241600 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 24 Sep 87 p 9

[Paraguayan Foreign Under Secretary Rodney Elpidio Acevedo answers unidentified reporters questions on U.S. Ambassador Taylor's visit to his office on 23 September]

[Text] Ambassador Taylor walked out of Paraguayan Foreign Under Secretary Rodney Elpidio Acevedo's office yesterday. "He did not even shake my hand," Acevedo said after the Ambassador left, in the following chat with journalists:

[Reporter] Could you tell us on what terms the meeting with the U.S. ambassador was held?

[Acevedo] Yes. I summoned the U.S. Ambassador to my office this afternoon in order to give him a note expressing the point of view of our Government and Foreign Ministry in response to the note dated 17 September which the U.S. Ambassador delivered to the Paraguayan foreign minister. We have expressed our discontent over certain positions, we have expressed our Government's point of view regarding each point mentioned in the note brought by the U.S. Ambassador. We have now delivered a writen reply rejecting each of the charges made against our government."

[Reporter] Was it evident during your interview with the U.S. Ambassador that the relations between Paraguay and the United States are strained or deteriorating?

[Acevedo] "Well, on our part, we are not annoyed at the U.S. Government or people. However, we are not pleased at the manner in which the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion is reporting to its country on Paraguayan events. We cannot allow the State Department to invent what is happening in our country. The statements made by the U.S. State Department or its spokesmen are obviously reflection of the information they receive from their representatives in Asuncion."

[Reporter] How could this incident affect diplomatic relations between the two countries?

[Acevedo] "For our part, we insist that we maintain the same anti-communist line as the United States. However, several charges have been made which are not in keeping with our government and people's beliefs and actions. We have replied to these charges."

[Reporter] Is Ambassador Taylor then responsible for this discomfort?

[Acevedo] "I do not want to name names, but Ambassador Taylor heads the U.S. diplomatic mission in Paraguay. Any report about our country passes through his hands is approved by him. Even if he does not generate the reports himself, he nonetheless approves them."

[Reporter] Could it be said that Ambassador Taylor is interfering in our domestic affairs?

[Acevedo] "The position adopted by the U.S. State Department, which reflects the information it receives from Paraguay and which was made public in Washington today according to news agencies reports, and the note dated 17 September, are a flagrant intervention in our domestic affairs."

[Reporter] Then, Ambassador Taylor walked out of your office sir?

[Acevedo] Yes. At one point he asked me if I had anything to give him to which I replied that what I had said to him in person was also written down on paper to recall him of the points. I gave him the note... He received it with displeasure and withdrew without even shaking hands," Acevedo said among other things.

Colorado Party on Threats

PY241922 Asuncion EL DIARIO in spanish 24 Sep 87 p 7

[Text] In answer to our question, Colorado Party Board Member Modesto M. Esquivel fully reasserted the charges he made against U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor in the ceremony held in Coronel Oviedo on 22 September. Esquivel reasserted that the U.S. diplomat "endorses subversion and terrorism" in our country.

Esquivel said: "I fully reassert myself on the charges I made against the U.S. Ambassador. We will strongly defend national democratic institutions. Paraguay is a sovereign and independent country with a constitutional government that has been elected by the sovereign will of the people who have been governed under a democratic Constitution since 1967."

He added that "we will not allow this gentleman, who plays a sad role by encouraging the irregular opposition, to meddle in Paraguayan domestic politics."

He said that "Paraguay has always been a friend of the U.S. Government and its people. But Mr. Clyde Taylor wants to undermine this friendship by recognizing irregular opposition groups and seeking to destabilize the government. As a Colorado Party member and as a member of the Colorado Party board I reassert the charges I made against this character and I inform him that we Colorado party members are ready to unmask the agents of subversion and terrorism which he is endorsing."

Esquivel added that "Laino was the one who, a few years back, burned the U.S. flag when [Nelson] Rockefeller visited our country. But now he is the spoiled child of the U.S. Embassy."

He said: "We are tolerant but there is a limit to everything and at the proper time we will do away with all the enemies of the Paraguayan people and government. We will not hesitate to act against those who strive to subvert the order and peace that prevails in the country."

Esquivel also stated that "President Stroessner's reelection for the 1988-1993 term will take place even if 20,000 people, like Taylor, come to our country because no one will be able to crush the sovereign will of the Paraguayan people."

The Colorado politician added that "I would like to remind Mr. Taylor that Paraguay is not a banana republic lost somewhere on the map. He does not have to come here and give us lessons on how to behave. Taylor should be aware that Paraguay has a strong government headed by President Stroessner, a government that enjoys the support of the majority of the Paraguayan people who want to continue to work in peace and order, both of which were achieved with much sacrifice."

Esquivel asserted that "this promoter of lost causes, this encourager of subversion, will not destroy what the Paraguayan people and the Colorado Government have achieved with so much effort. Because of his attitude, this gentleman's days in Paraguay are numbered because the Colorado Party will not allow him to remain in the country and will throw him out of the country. More than 1.4 million Colorado Party members are on alert to do whatever is necessary."

Opposition Defends Taylor

PY241515 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 24 Sep 87 p 8

[Text] When asked about the statement by Manuel Esquivel and Miguel Angel Lopez Gimenez, who spoke during a demonstration "in support" of Juan Ramirez Kohn in Coronel Oviedo, Authentic Radical Liberal Party leader Dr Miguel Abdon Saguier said: "I believe that the statements by the members of the party executive board of the Stroessnerist militants against Ambassador Taylor reflect the thinking of the government of General Stroessner, because this type of attack against the U.S. is not new."

He reiterated that "this is obviously the government's position. The Latin American people, however, welcome the censuring of dictators by the United States." Saguier added that the charges levelled by Esquivel and Lopez

Gimenez are totally groundless "because the government is the true source of terrorism. They are the ones who are engaged in the so-called state terrorism. They are the ones who frighten people with threats, violence, heavy-handedness, and the promotion of hatred. The government is obviously the source of terrorism, subversion, and violence."

Saguier said that "Ambassador Taylor has already been the target of a teargas attack. Ministers have frequently criticized the ambassador, who has complied with the instructions from his own government," he concluded.

Politicians Take Sides

PY250200 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Sep 87 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] Deputy Ubaldo Centurion Morinigo discussed the U.S. situation, saying: "The position of the government of President Stroessner is to reject any interference in Paraguayan internal affairs. Our country has been free and sovereign since 14 May 1811. Consequently, we do not accept meddling in affairs that are the exclusive concern of Paraguayans."

The deputy, who is also a member of the Colorado Party Executive board, added that "the government of President Stroessner has always defended the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states with decorum and dignity. Paraguay respects the sovereignty of other countries, and with the same firmness with which it respects their rights, it demands respect for its sovereignty."

As for the attitude the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry has adopted toward the recent U.S. State Department communique on the sociopolitical situation in our country, Centurion Morinigo said: "It reflects President Stroessner's unwavering position of demanding respect for the sovereignty of Paraguay, because that position is in line with the dignity and honor of our people and our heroic nation." [passage omitted]

Dr Roberto Velazquez Escobar, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, made this statement to *Ultima Hora:* "A diplomat like Ambassador Taylor has no reason to meddle in the internal political affairs of our country. He has to take care of his diplomatic functions, and the Paraguayans have to solve their own problems. In my view, what Ambassador Taylor is doing—in the vernacular—is conspiring with the opposition of President Stroessner's government."

In analyzing the situation created by the U.S. ambassador's attitude, Velazquez Escobar said relations between the two governments will not deteriorate, because it is "a small issue" when viewed in the broad contents of those relations. [passage omitted]

Referring to the issue and the attitude of Ambassador Taylor in particular, Dr Jose Maria Bonin, president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), said: "The government is responsible for the wave of persecution against opposition political leaders and people at large whose only 'crime' is exercising their constitutional rights."

"We are part of a community of nations and, under international agreements, we are committed to respect human rights. If anyone does not comply with his international commitments or makes a mockery of them, he has to pay a high political price for turning his back on civilized forms of internal and external coexistence," he added.

Bonin continued by saying: "Neither the U.S. Government nor Ambassador Taylor, who is an excellent diplomat, are responsible for the human rights violations the Paraguayan Government constantly commits. Both the U.S. Government and Ambassador Taylor merely note and comment on those violations. They have the right to do so because the United States is a cosignatory of clear and precise international agreements binding governments not to persecute dissenters, and to promote and maintain an authentic democratic coexistence." [passage omitted]

Political Leaders Comment

PY250221 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 24 Sep 87 p 9

[Excerpts] Julio Cesar Vasconsellos of the MOPOCO Convergent Faction said the accusations and insults made against the U.S. Ambassador in Coronel Oviedo once again demonstrate "the totalitarian nature of our government."

Vasconsellos added: "No one should be annoyed when a friendly country, through its representatives, looks after human rights because human rights belong to humanity. They have no borders, especially if we realize that Paraguay is a member of both the UN and OAS. These organizations have the right to evaluate human rights situations in their member-countries." [passage omitted]

"The people responsible for subversion and terrorism are the ones who attacked the panel in Coronel Oviedo. As far as I know, Ambassador Taylor does not protect, defend or encourage them," said Fernando Vera. Vera is president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, and made those comments, in reference to the accusations made against the U.S. Ambassador by high officials of the Colorado Party leadership.

He added: "Taylor carries out his mission in our country in accordance with State Department instructions, not on his own." He reiterated that he does not think Ambassador Taylor protects or encourages the so-called subversion as charged by Colorado Party leaders.

Vera pointed out that subversion and terrorism come from the government. He said: "The fascist militants of the Colorado Party are the ones who are subverting constitutional order in Paraguay. They are now even threatening to establish a republican national guard to create fear among people who are not official party members."

Vera concluded by saying, "as far as I know, Ambassador Taylor does not support or approve of terrorist acts such as the new outbreak of attacks on people currently being conducted by the Stroessner regime."

Luis M. Andrada Nogues, member of the Christian Democratic Party, said that "the Stroessner regime has lost its compass" and that the days of this autocracy are coming to an end because the people are aware of the current situation and will no longer accept oppression and beatings." [quotation marks as published]

Andrada Nogues added that "the accusations made by Deputy Miguel Angel Lopez Gimenez and Modesto Esquivel against Ambassador Taylor are nothing more than the desperation of a regime fighting to stay in power."

Nogues added: "The people are no longer stepping back in the search for freedom." [passage omitted]

"The insults against the U.S. Ambassador come from the irresponsible spokesmen of the Stroessner party. The accusations do not represent the opinion of the mayority of the authentic and respectful Colorado Party members," said Waldino Ramon Lovera, member of the Colorado Popular Movement.

Lovera said: "This harassment will only lead to a further deterioration of the international image of the Stroessner party. Our movement condemns the acrimonious accusations being made against representatives of friendly countries."

He added: "This spurious party executive board is taking the political struggle to an extreme radicalization in addition to the creation of the so-called combat batallions or assault groups. They want to take us back to the years of blood and grief."

Ruling Party Editorial Criticizes Abrams
PY241628 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 24 Sep 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Eyeglasses for Mr Abrams"]

[Text] There is no room for dubious ambiguities or dualities in a sincerely democratic, politically loyal behavior. If we are going to talk about the poeple's will, we should begin by considering that each citizen casts one vote and that the majority vote democratically establishes the authorities who will assume power.

Any attempt to favor the ideas or influence of a sector or social class, on whatever grounds, is oligarchic, just as the attempt to underestimate the choice of the majority is typically reactionary.

From the viewpoint of the elections, we see that major Latin American countries have repeatedly demanded direct presidential elections to replace the system in which the president is elected by representatives. Here in Paraguay, direct elections have been held for 47 years, because the system was established by the 1940 Constitution.

Based on the above, no one who is familiar with Paraguay can doubt that the candidacy of President Stroessner for another constitutional term has emerged with genuine spontaneity. The movement supporting this idea, which was formulated over 1 year ago, has never declined and has by no means been affected by the electoral contest of the past Colorado Party convention. The idea is the result of President Stroessner's unquestionable political leadership. That is why even before the party convention, the party executive board submitted to the special convention the unanimous request which had been made by all the party precincts throughouth the country demanding the nomination of the leader. The Special Convention will meet in due time to nominate party candidates for electoral posts.

To improve on what has already been achieved is something else. This cannot be asked only of the government or of the Colorado Party, as the majority party which holds power. It must also be asked of the opposition, in which we have to emphasize the role of the irregular sectors that promote abstention and that do not permit a complete perception of the democratic situation in Paraguay.

But the most irritating actions of those irregular and antidemocratic opposition sectors are the maneuvers involving their own situation. Everyone knows that they are a group of irreconcilable minorities, but their propaganda depicts them as an "accord" or a "front." It is publicly known that all those minorities have international connections, organizations, aid, and supporters abroad (in addition to the frequent State Department invitations to visit the United States). These minorities are presented as the victims of tyrannical oppression. It appears that now they have managed to involve even Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, in their smear practices. According to a UPI report, Abrams expressed "growing concern" for what he called "deterioration in the Paraguayan human rights record," based on the charge that "guards with official support have prevented political dissent." It is a tremendous monstrosity that the world's largest superpower has said this.

The "positive steps" that the government has taken since the democratic opening in 1963 were firm and continue to be firm, because the government enjoys the suport of the absolute majority. The Colorado Party is the majority sector and it is legitimately exercising power by virtue of that majority support.

We refuse to believe that Mr Abrams has enrolled in the party that promotes "impunity." We refuse to believe that he is advocating anarchy, arbitrariness, and impunity. In any case, his attention should be drawn to the terms of Articles 29 and 30 of the Universal Declaration on the Obligations, Duties, and Restrictions that are the compulsory counterpart of any right, or to Articles 32 and 33 of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Men, or more specifically to what Article 15 of

the American Human Rights Convention states in connection with the freedom of assembly, in keeping with Article 21 of the International Pact of Political and Civilian Rights.

All these international regulations strengthen the second sentence of Article 76 of our Constitution, about the only interpretation that can be given to Mr Abrams' mysterious contention that "guards with official support have prevented political dissent." The second sentence of Article 76 states: "Meetings in public places shall be regulated by law, to safeguard the rights of third parties and the public order." In this case, the regulatory law is Law No. 877 (police statute), in which Paragraph 13 of Article 4 states that the police will "insure compliance with the regulations for meetings in public places, to safeguard public order and the rights of third persons."

With such horrifying things happening in the world, from the Persian Gulf to Central America, Mr Abrams could well have had a bit more rational inspiration in expressing his views on Paraguay. Terrorism and extremist violence have not yet arrived here because they will stand no chance, and the irregular opposition is not at all interested in democratic participation because it is not interested in winning the people's support. They want power. If Mr Abrams cannot see this, he should get a new pair of eyeglasses.